



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Alexander Announces Funding for University of Louisiana at Monroe

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, today announced that the National Science Foundation (NSF) will award University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) an intended amount of \$498,979.

This project, entitled "CyberFlora Louisiana," is under the direction of Thomas Sasek. The award is effective Mar 1, 2009.

This funding will allow 1.1 million plant specimens in the 15 Louisiana herbaria to be imaged during the three-year project. Collection information will be extracted from the labels with software tools to develop electronic databases.

As one of the first statewide projects of its kind, "CyberFlora Louisiana" will serve as a model for other state networks.

"I applaud ULM for being a pioneer in the online collection of plant information," said Alexander. **"I am confident that this project will help increase the awareness of plants indigenous to our state, and the importance of their conservation."**

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